has approached Indian Railways to consider development of passenger coaches made of Aluminium.

(b) There is nothing in the design proposed by M/s Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. (BEML) to indicate that their design would minimize loss of lives of passengers and damage of rail property in the event of rail accidents.

However, Indian Railways had already decided to develop design of crashworthy passenger coaches. M/s. Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES) in association with Transportation Technology Centre (TTC)/United States of America and Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) are working on this project since June, 2003.

(c) Corporate Safety Plan" of Indian Railway for the period 2003 to 2013 has been finalized and presented to the Parliament on 19th August, 2003. This document states the objectives, targets and strategies for which the Indian Railways would be striving in the next decade. The document encompasses the broad priorities and time frame of the safety related works alongwith assessed approximate requirement for financial investments.

Developing RISM

1212. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Meteorological experts failed to predict the inadequate rainfall in Ananthapur district of Andhra Pradesh and excessive rain in other districts; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to develop a high tech Radar Imaging Satellite Mission for improving all weather predictions for agricultural activity, disaster management Geology etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) No Sir. India Meteorological Department (IMD) is not issuing district level long range

forecast for monsoon rainfall. The long range forecast Issued by IMD for this year's South-West monsoon rainfall for the country as a whole as well as for peninsular India was correct.

(b) The Radar Imaging Satellite (RISAT) is primarily a microwave remote sensing mission, with day and night imaging and cloud penetrating capabilities. Essentially, RISAT provides inputs for agricultural resources survey and disaster management applications and is not designed for rainfall monitoring applications.

Production of flowers for odour and medicinal use

†1213. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme for the harvest of flowers for odour and medicinal use in Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the details of centres set up in this regard and the capacity thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to expand the Uttaranchal based centres and to set up new centres; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (d) Some Central Ministries/Departments/Institutes are supporting various research programmes for the improvement, cultivation and harvest of suitable flowers for odour and medicinal use in the country including Uttaranchal. The Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), Lucknow-a constituent laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has established two field stations for research purpose in the State of Uttaranchal, one near Pantnagar in District-Udhamsingh Nagar and the other near Garur Baijnath in District-Bageshwar. These centres have been carrying out research on improvement and utlization of medicinal and aromatic plants in the region alongwith imparting training to the farmers on cultivation of improved varieties of medicinal and aromatic plants. The Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.